

## **Continuing Medical Education**

# Qualifications for CMA's Certificate For Physicians

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IN THE FEBRUARY, 1970, issue of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE, background information pertinent to the California Medical Association's Certificate in Continuing Medical Education was published. This formal Certificate in Continuing Medical Education received final approval from the House of Delegates at its meeting in March and will be implemented this fall. A booklet explaining the program and detailing the ways in which CMA will help the physician maintain a record of those educational activities which qualify him for certification will be distributed in August.

The certificate will formally acknowledge the accomplishments of California physicians who keep pace with advancing medical knowledge. The program, a reflection of the medical profession's traditional concern with the quality of medical care, recognizes that the profession itself is best qualified to assess the adequacy of the continuing medical education of California physicians. The certification program represents a flexible approach permitting constant modification. It encompasses continuing medical education of all types; and it anticipates that as new modes of

education are developed, tested and approved, they will be included.

Requirements for the certificate are flexible enough to permit participation by any physician in California engaging in whatever combination of continuing medical education activities is consistent with his particular professional setting.

Certification will be awarded for three consecutive years of accredited or approved educational activities. During this three-year period a total of 200 hours of time is required for certification. The program has established two categories of educational activities, "Required" (Group A), and "Elective" (Group B). As can be seen in the graphic summary a minimum of 75 hours of the 200-hour total must be from the Group A category, although all of the 200 hours may be from Group A. Fifteen hours of Group A credit must be completed within each given year for that year to count toward certification. The certificate is to be awarded for consecutive qualifying years, as the emphasis is on continuing and not sporadic medical education.

Eligibility is extended to any California licensee, whether a member of CMA or not, as well as to any physician member of the Armed Forces, Veterans Administration or U.S. Public Health Service, provided he resided in California for the three consecutive years in which he participates in his qualifying 200 hours of educational activities.

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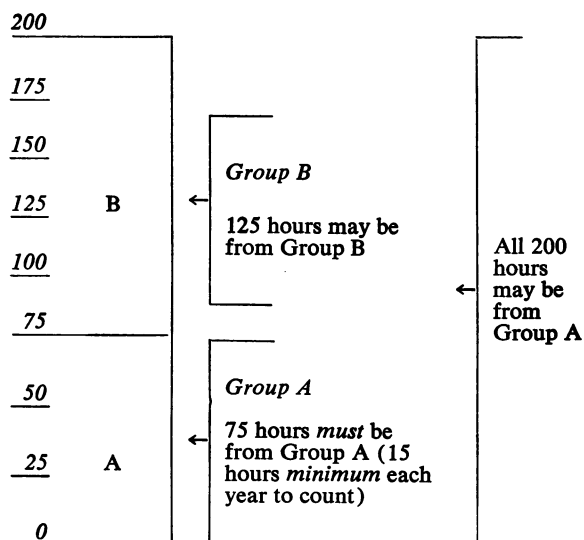
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Reprint requests to: CMA Committee on Continuing Medical Education, 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102.

## GRAPHIC SUMMARY

*Number of Hours of Continuing Education Activities  
for Certification in Three Years*

Total: 200 hours in three years



"Required" (Group A) activities include: Any accredited, formally constituted meeting, program or course sponsored by medical schools, medical institutions, specialty societies, and voluntary health agencies; teaching, publications, and research activities; presentation of papers and educational exhibits at a recognized medical meeting; and any other learning experience which an in-

dividual physician or medical group considers meritorious for which accreditation has been received by advance application.

"Elective" (Group B) activities include: Attendance and teaching activities at other medical meetings, programs, courses, and grand rounds not included in Group A; individual reading of journals and journal clubs; audio and/or visual medical programs; attendance at postmortem with pathologist and other activities for which accreditation has been received by advance application.

The physician participating in the Certification Program will be asked to keep a detailed record of his continuing medical education activities and to submit his records annually for review by the California Medical Association. As earlier announced there will be a mechanism for California physicians to obtain the AMA Physician's Recognition Award by reciprocity, to avoid duplication of record keeping.

The California Committee on Continuing Medical Education (CCCME) will contact county medical society presidents and executive secretaries, hospital chiefs of staff and directors and individual physicians this summer. Following these initial contacts a booklet will be sent to each individual physician, detailing and elaborating on the program and providing forms for the physician to maintain a record of those educational activities which qualify him for certification.

At this time the CMA Committee on Accreditation is establishing criteria for inclusion of institutions and educational activities in the program. The Evaluation Subcommittee of our CCCME committee has formulated a booklet to be sent to all hospitals to help with educational programs and activities. It is anticipated that at some point in the future educational programs will be developed based on physician need and that these needs will reflect requirements necessary for the continued high quality care of our patients—a prime goal of this Certification Program.

## ERIN GO BAWL

"An Irish pediatrician friend of mine . . . tells how he examines newborns who are crying and making his examination difficult. Instead of making the usual cooing, mothering noises, he actually counters the infant with a cry as loud and ferocious as the infant is making. More often than not, the infant stops crying. You can imagine this large Irishman leaning over a small infant and the consternation among the nursing staff when he makes this noise at the baby. He's now demonstrated this repeatedly, he's recorded it, and he's written a small paper about it."

—FREDERICK RICHARDSON, M.D., Baltimore  
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